Equipping the Army with new systems of Guns

†917. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to increase its striking power, Government have formulated any plan for the army to provide new type of helicopters and new systems of guns, to increase its mobility in the battlefield;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the latest position of this scheme; and

(d) by when this scheme is proposed to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) The Army has planned acquisition for new generation, technologically advanced helicopters during the 11th and 12th Plans to enhance its battlefield mobility and striking power in support of field formations. Such helicopters include Advance Light Helicopters (Utility Version), Advanced Light Helicopters (Weapon System Integration), Tactical Battle Field Support Helicopter and State-of-the-art Attack helicopters. These Helicopters are planned to be acquired in a staggered manner and the acquisition will be as per the extant Defence Procurement Procedure.

As regards guns, 155 mm/52 Caliber Wheeled and Tracked SP Guns are planned to be procured. 155 mm/52 Caliber Towed Guns are presently undergoing trials. As and when these guns are inducted, the fire power and mobility in the battlefield would be enhanced.

Bilateral Defence Cooperation between India and Russia

918. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between India and Russia were held recently for strengthening bilateral defence cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the details of agreements signed between the two countries;

(c) whether Government have decided to access the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS); and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.